

In the Claims

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) An isolate nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

~~(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2;~~

~~(b) a nucleotide sequence that encodes an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said nucleotide sequence hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS: 1 or 3;~~

~~(c) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids; and~~

~~(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1;~~

~~(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3; and~~

~~(e) (d) a nucleotide sequence that is the complement of completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)- (d) (c).~~

Claims 5-7 (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 5.

9. (Original) A host cell containing the vector of claim 8.

Claims 10-23 (cancelled)

24. (New) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide.

25. (New) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

26. (New) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

27. (New) A vector according to claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

28. (New) A vector according to claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that a polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:2 may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

29. (New) A vector according to claim 28, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.